



# THE CARPENTER

## ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDERBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISH IN 1841

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**AUGUST, 2025**

### END OF THE YEAR REPORT FOR 2024-2025



*Fr. Gene Schroeder*  
**PASTOR**

We've come to the end of another year in our parish and it falls to me to give you a report of all that has happened. We celebrated the birth of new parishioners and we grieved with families at the death of their loved ones, some of which were expected and some that caught us all off guard. We celebrated special moments in people's lives—baptisms, first communions, weddings, confirmations, anniversaries, graduations and funerals.



Week in and week out, we gathered together at Mass to be strengthened by the life shared with us in the Eucharist. We came to know new people who have joined our parish community. And we came to appreciate old friends even more as they helped us through the joys and sorrows of our everyday lives.

Lots of our gatherings related to food—conducting our big chicken dinner in July, working at our parish booths at the Fall Festival, making kuchens, homemade sausage and fixing those great fish dinners during Lent.

And we gathered for parish meetings and to take care of the buildings on our parish campus, most especially our church as we completed our Rebuilding the Church Campaign. And we continued our efforts to serve others through our various outreach ministries. And through it all, the work of our school and religious education programs continued. Here are some highlights from the past year.

#### ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

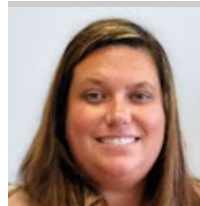
We continue to believe that Catholic schools are the best way we know of to train our children in the ways of faith. Much of our money and human effort of our parish have been spent on providing a Catholic education for our students through St. Joseph School, an endeavor that has been going on in one form or another since the very beginning of our parish in 1841.

Mrs. Kelsey Meier began her second year as our school principal. She led our school faculty and staff as they worked to provide an environment where our students not only gained academic knowledge but learned how to live in this world by being centered in the values of the Gospel that Jesus challenges us to embrace. The school year was full of academic pursuits—math, science, history, English, music, art, I-Step and I-Read testing, spelling bee, geography bee, sci-

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### AND ONCE AGAIN WE BEGIN

*Mrs. Kelsey Meier*  
**PRINCIPAL**



For the 184th year, school begins here in our parish. It's changed a lot over the years. In the beginning they just found an individual who could teach the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic to the children of the parish. And the school was held in the same building as the log cabin church. The education of our children took a big step forward when our original school was built in 1874 with the help and assistance of the Franciscan Sisters from Oldenburg who also comprised the school faculty. It took another big step in 1958 when a new school was built, complete with running water and indoor toilets!

Teaching methods have also changed over the years. Slate tablets gave way to chalk boards which gave way to the smart boards we use in today's classrooms. The faculty grew from three teachers to our current staff of twenty-nine people. Computer labs gave way to individual chrome books and laptops. Rows of desks gave way to learning centers in each room, and "one size fits all teaching" gave way to individualized learning plans for each student.

But the essence of having a school remains—training our children in the ways of faith. We are guided by the fact that Christ is the reason for this school. He is the unseen but ever present teacher in its classes. He is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students.

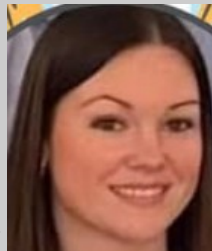
Over the next ten months we will engage in a wide variety of classes, extracurricular and athletic activities, gather together for prayer at Mass, engage in opportunities to give back to the community and share some great food at lunch time. And through it all we will commit ourselves to be teachers as well as learners.

This year we are excited to welcome some new faculty members: Priscilla Schmitt- Preschool Teacher, Caroline Voges- 4th Grade Teacher, Jennifer Fuchs - 6-8th Literature and Resource, Adrienne Kerney- Art and Music, and Hadley Kendle- Preschool/Pre K Enrichment. They are great additions to our already incredible school staff.

We also welcome Yesenia Araujo and Deanna Hamm who will be joining our school staff as part of our cleaning staff. They, and an incredible group of volunteers have already been hard at work getting the school in great shape for the new school year. We're set for a great year for sure!



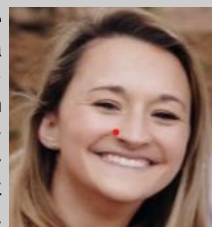
**Caroline Voges**



**Jennifer Fuchs**



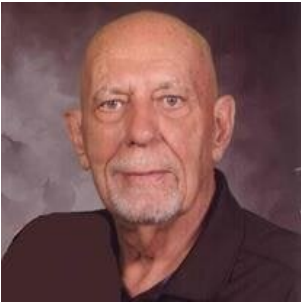
**Adrienne Kerney**



**Hadley Kendle**

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## REMEMBERING

*Dave Fehrenbacher*

August 31, 1945 - June 18, 2025

Dave was a man of many passions—his family, his grandchildren, his job as a policeman and his extended family.

Dave was born on August 31, 1945, one of five children born to Wilfred and Marian Fehrenbacher. His sister Barb was there to welcome him and they were later joined by brother Dick, Mark and Terry. Dave attended Sacred Heart Grade School and later graduated from Mater Dei High School in 1963. From his family he learned the value of hard work.



After high school, Dave joined the Navy Reserve and, as part of his training, was sent to the Paris Island Marine Corps Base to train as a Navy Corpsman. He was very proud of the time he spent as a corpsman with the Marine Corps.

When he came back from service, he went to work with his dad working as a painter with Deig Brothers Construction. Working with his dad meant learning how to do things the right way and to take some pride in your work. However, working as a painter was not to the path for Dave.

In 1974, Dave joined the Evansville Police Department. For the next thirty-four years until his retirement in 2008, Dave served in many different capacities, first as a patrolman where he was part of the group that walked a beat and got to meet the neighbors up close and personal. In time, Dave worked in the narcotics and vice sections before retiring as a Deputy Chief. As with everything else in his life, Dave took his responsibilities as a police officer to heart and was well respected by his fellow officers. As one of his fellow officers said, "I never ever heard a bad thing or word about David. The City was fortunate to have such a great public servant to the Citizens of Evansville."

Dave's life took an interesting turn when he was introduced to a young woman named Betty Goedde. Betty's sister was the one who got them connected. After their first date, Dave tried to come up with a reason to call her, but Betty assured him that he really didn't need to have a reason to call her, she was happy to talk with him. They were married on July 14, 1981. In time they would welcome their two children into their family, a son Dave and a daughter Elyssa. In her brother's eye, Elyssa was always "Daddy's little princess." But Dave was also proud of his son. He introduced him to deer hunting, although, as his son said, you would be more likely to see Dave asleep in the deer stand or smoking a cigarette—two things that really cut down on him being able to get a deer. For a while, he also enjoyed bird hunting and kept several bird dogs as well.

In time, Dave and Betty would welcome grandchildren into their lives—Hank, Gabe, Wyatt and Lincoln Paulson, Livi, Jake, Luke and Josie. In the last years of his life, Dave took great pride in being "Grandpa" to all eight of the grandkids.

Over the years, Dave was quick to offer his help here in the parish. In his early years in the parish, he offered his services as a security officer for the summer social. He also was a faithful member of our lawn mowing crews. In later years, Dave helped to fry the chicken for our summer social dinners. He also enjoyed gathering with the Men's Club at

their monthly meetings and helping out with their projects.

Dave retired from the police department in 2008. Retirement gave him a chance to pursue one of his hobbies which was playing golf. But, ever the thrifty person, Dave soon realized that playing golf all the time could be a very expensive habit. And besides, just playing golf, much as he might enjoy it, was also a little boring. So he began a second career as the security officer at the Federal Court Building.

One of the other great loves of Dave's life was family genealogy. His search for relatives of the Fehrenbacher family led him to several trips to Germany where he was able to meet with relatives from there. He also travelled to Oregon to visit with relatives there. If you wanted to know who was related to whom, Dave was the person to see.

In the last years of his life, Dave dealt with a cancer diagnosis. In time, he decided to forgo any more cancer treatments and entered hospice care. With the help of his family, he was able to spend the last days of his life at home. He died peacefully on June 18. We give thanks for the blessing Dave was to his family, our parish, and the whole community.



## REMEMBERING

*Margaret Will*

August 22, 1925 - July 4, 2025

Margaret was a long time faithful member of our parish who lived to be just one month short of being 100 years old. She was one of eleven children born to Leo and Matilda Koressel. Her brothers and sisters Agnes (Sammet) Irene (Keil), Sr. Kathryn, SP, and Marie (Gentry), Alvin, Clarence, and Linus preceded her in death, and her sister Helen and her brothers Joe and Fr. Jim Koressel survive her.



As a young girl, Margaret lived with her family on Indiana Street on the west side of Evansville where they were members of Sacred Heart Parish. Margaret graduated from Sacred Heart Grade School. In the years after grade school, Margaret would work at a number of different jobs, first at Bernardin Bottle Company and later at the Baby Shop in downtown Evansville.

Margaret was a "city" girl, but found the love of her life in a young man from the country, named Sylvester Will. How they got together is a bit of a mystery in the family, but it has something to do with their siblings. Always on the lookout for a perfect partner, they managed to introduce them to each other, and the rest, as they say, is history! They were married on at St. Joseph Parish in the city of Evansville in 1957. Margaret was 32 and Sylvester was 40.

After they got married, they moved to the Will farm on St. Wendel Road farm where Sylvester had grown up. The Will farm surrounded our parish property. These two things, the church and the farm, would be anchors in Margaret's life. It would be Margaret's home for the next sixty years until she moved to Leisure Living Apartments.

Margaret and Sylvester first set up a home in the old farm house where Sylvester grew up. Later they built their first home, a concrete block building that would eventually become the garage. Later they built a more permanent orange brick home and it was there that they made a home for their children Susan, Alan and John. Their first born sons, Dennis and Donnie Will died prematurely in 1957.

Margaret took to life as a farmer's wife and spent her days with all the jobs of being a wife, mother and homemaker. Cooking,



cleaning and housekeeping occupied most of her days. Along with that were the daily chores of the farm, taking care of the chickens and pigs, planting and harvesting a garden with all the canning and preserving of the garden produce. She was known as a great cook and baker. If you came by on Sunday, you would find them enjoying a fried chicken dinner. And if you came visiting on Sunday evening you would be invited to share in some popcorn and soft drinks—a weekly tradition for the family.

Though the family's address was St. Wendel Road, it could just have easily been called "Will Road," because Sylvester's brothers, Wilfred, Urban and Ray and sister Clara (Baumgart) all built homes within eyesight of each other. That meant there were always times to gather with cousins for fun times.

As the children grew, Margaret became involved in their daily lives as well, especially through the years they were in school. Margaret was also quick to offer her time and talent here in our parish. As a member of the Altar Society, she helped with their many different projects. Margaret could always be counted on to help out at our summer social where you would find her in the dining room serving those great chicken dinners. Margaret was also one of the members of our faithful quilting group that hand-crafted quilts for the summer social quilt booth.

Margaret's life took a big turn in 1989 when her husband Sylvester died. Margaret continued to live on the farm for the next twenty plus years. One of the things she enjoyed was gathering with her sisters each week. Their routine was to go to Mass at St. Joe in the city and then have dinner at the nearby Owls Club, followed by an evening of dancing.

We remember Margaret not only for her love of dancing, but her talents as a quilter and her abilities as a cook. Margaret had a way of being simple, direct and to the point. When asked if she was going to join a "Why Catholic" faith sharing group, she replied, "I don't need to join a "Why Catholic" group. I already know why I am a Catholic!"

For the last years of her life, Margaret moved to Leisure Living Apartments and attended Mass at St. Boniface which was close to where she lived. Her declining health led her to become a resident at Heritage Nursing Center and it was there that she died on July 4.

We give thanks for the blessing that Margaret was to her parents, siblings, Sylvester, her children, and to our parish. We pray now that she will come to experience the fullness of life with God in his Kingdom.



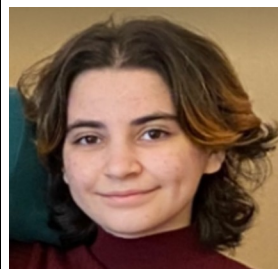
## CARPENTER SOCIETY

We now have thirty-three different endowments under the umbrella of the Carpenter Society. These endowments are managed by the Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Indiana. They manage 750 endowments from parishes and groups within the Diocese of Evansville. During 2024 the rate of return for the total portfolio was 18.65%. Over the lifespan of the Foundation, it has yielded a growth rate averaging 8% annually. The assets held in trust as of December 31, 2024 were valued at \$128,330,811. This past year they distributed \$4,421,614 to parishes and groups within the diocese.

In 2024, a total of \$21,359.10 was contributed to the thirty-three endowments in the Carpenter Society. The total value of our endowments as of December 31, 2023 is \$1,666,996.49. This is an increase of \$223,300.51 from the previous year which represents an 15% increase.

For 2024 \$61,795.95 is available for distribution to the various areas of the parish endowed by the individual endowments. This amount, combined with distributions from previous years gives us a total of \$562,383.47 available in unrestricted accounts to be used as determined by the particular endowments.

## Up Close and Personal INTRODUCING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



### Rio Burk

Rio Burk is the daughter of Mike and Josie Burk. She graduated from Signature High School this past May. She attended Cynthia Heights Elementary School, where, among other things, she learned to do a lot of reading and, at the annual festival celebrating the love of reading, she rode a mechanical bull. "It was a lot of fun but I didn't stay on that long before I got thrown off!"

She attended Helfrich Park Middle School where she had the opportunity to take a lot of advanced math and science classes. One of the teachers she remembers particularly was her math teacher. "She was the best math teacher ever who made learning fun and was able to explain things in a way that everyone could understand." Rio also participated in the annual Land Between the Lakes gathering of students held each year at Helfrich Park.

Rio decided to attend Signature School which she found both challenging and stimulating. "Signature School attracts people who want to learn and are up to being challenged. I found it to be a place that was very accepting of people especially those who may think a little differently than others."

Her four years at Signature lived up to their promise of being very challenging. Lots of math and science courses which she enjoyed. But there were also courses in history and literature that made students think about the world they are living in. Talking with Rio reveals a young woman very much engaged in the challenges facing our world, from health care to environmental impacts of modern industry and the impact of technology and social media.

One of the things that students at Signature are required to be involved in is community service. One of the service projects that Rio was involved in was helping at the Martin Luther King (MLK) Festival held at the C.K. Newsome Center. Aside from helping to set up the various booths for the event and to help staff them during the festival, Rio also got to learn about some of the local artists who were featured at the festival.

That experience helped to nurture one of Rio's other passions—being an artist. Over the years she has created and displayed many of her artistic creations. In learning about the history of Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement, Rio also began to learn about her own Puerto Rican heritage. In studying the desire for independence for Puerto Rico, she came to learn about Lolita Labron, who advocated from Puerto Rican nationalism. Drawing her portrait was just one of the many artistic renderings that Rio completed.

Next year, Rio plans to attend Ball State University. She's not sure what her eventual major will be, but right now she is looking at pursuing a degree in sociology or political science.

## SALUTING OUR YOUNG PARISHIONERS

- **Emily Seger** received her Masters Degree in Physicians Assistance Studies from UE this past May. In June she was married to JT Townsend.
- **Ella Dalrymple** received a first place award for her sculpture "A Cat Fight Between Emotions" at the Evansville High Schools Art Show
- **Brady Kassenbrock, Grant Volker and Zach Bishop** helped to lead the Mater Dei Wildcats Baseball Team to the state championship game.



## PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

In the daily life of our parish, the work of our parish organizations is essential. Not only do they provide opportunities for people to share some good food and time for fellowship, but our parish would not be able to function without their efforts.

**ST ANNE ALTAR SOCIETY** continued to provide the money need to buy missalettes, altar bread and wine, candles and other items we use for our prayer at Mass. To raise this money, they have conducted several kitchen sales throughout the year. They also hosted a Christmas and Spring dinners for the women of the parish. They also contributed \$3,000 to our Rebuilding our Church Campaign. Each month they also gathered for some tasty deserts and fellowship.

**KNIGHTS OF ST JOHN** have been long time supporters of special education programs in our school. Each year, as they did this past year, they gave 10% of profits they made from their fall festival booth. Next year this group will host the state wide Knights of St. John Gathering. Each month, members gathered to share some good food and fellowship as well.

**ST. JOE MEN'S CLUB** fulfilled their \$50,000 pledge to our Rebuilding our Church Campaign. Members also helped with a wide variety of maintenance projects in the parish. To raise money they have conducted a wide variety of fund raising projects—making burgoo, making brauts and braut burgers, and selling chicken dinners. Members of the club use their cooking skills as well to provide some great food for their monthly gatherings.

**PTO** played a fundamental role in the work of our school by coordinating a wide variety of volunteers to help with office work in the school and support for the individual teachers in their classrooms. They also provided financial support to purchase school textbooks, chrome books, smart boards and an endless list of specially needed items for individual teachers. Throughout the years, they conducted several fundraising projects including their Fall Festival Booth and their annual dinner-dance-and auction.

**ST. JOE ATHLETIC COMMITTEE** The students in our school have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of sporting activities through the year from soccer to basketball, to volleyball to archery. All these opportunities are made possible by the Athletic Committee. They provide the money for the various fees as well as uniforms and supplies for each sport. They also helped to provide coaches for each of these sports teams.

**ST JOE SENIOR CITIZENS** continued to provide an opportunity for people in the parish to gather for some good fun, good food and great fellowship, enjoying some good time playing bingo and a few games of clabber.

**ST JOE COMMUNITY BASEBALL PROGRAM** has a quasi relationship with our parish. They use our facilities to provide T Ball, Baseball and Softball opportunities for the young people in our parish and in the community. Members of our parish, along with other adults in the community provided the leadership for this effort. This effort involved finding coaches as well as providing the money needed for all these teams. They have spent time and effort upgrading and refurbishing the baseball dugouts and concession stand.



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ence fair, art fair, robotics competition, Young Authors, library week, Catholic schools week festivities, and the book fair.

Prayer time with our faculty and students is a central part of our education experience.

Each week our students gathered for Mass on Friday. We continued our special Holy Week services with children for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

Flowing from this prayerful center were numerous efforts by the students to reach out to the world beyond the walls of the school. Throughout the year our students were involved in a number of fundraisers to benefit Riley Children's Hospital, Santa Clothes Club, and the Evansville Rescue Mission thanksgiving

dinner for the community. In addition, students collected food items for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry and prepared meals for the folks at the United Caring Shelter. Not only do we try to teach that caring for other people is important, but caring for the world around us is important as well. Throughout the year, we continued to challenge our students to develop a consciousness for recycling, by collecting cardboard, glass, plastic or paper, and recycling aluminum cans.

Throughout the year, students also had the chance to participate in various St. Joe Bobcat athletic competitions. The work of the school athletic committee has been invaluable in these efforts by providing the funds needed for equipment, uniforms, and fees, as well as providing coaches for the various sports: volleyball, football, soccer (boys and girls), basketball (boys and girls), wrestling, track, tennis, baseball, and archery.

The good work that was done in our school received special recognition this past year. Our school was named a Family Friendly School by the Indiana Department of Education. This designation, which is awarded to schools who demonstrate excellence in engaging families in their children's education, focuses on ad-



ressing the academic, physical, emotional, and social needs of students. It also provides the needed resources and fosters the active involvement of their families through schools and the community.

Our Principal, Kelsey Meier, and our Third Grade Teacher, Norah Ferguson were named as finalists in the Evansville Courier

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and Press Outstanding Educators. Norah was named the Outstanding Elementary Teacher for 2025. In addition, Mrs. Becky Ondash was honored as an Elizabeth Ann Seton Educator award by the Diocese of Evansville. Becky retired at the end of the year, so this award was such a great way to top off her illustrious career as an elementary teacher in our school.

#### MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORT

This past year we continued our support of Mater Dei High School. Our parish, as do all the other parishes in the Evansville area, provides financial support for the operation of Mater Dei and Memorial High School through our high school assessment. Our assessment this year was \$95,841.00. In addition, many of our parishioners have given financial support to Mater Dei through contributions to their capital campaign, the Friends and Alumni Annual Fund, the Catholic Education Foundation, and contributions to various endowments established to benefit Mater Dei. Untold hours of volunteer service have also been given by parishioners to various projects throughout the year.

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FATH FORMATION

Under the leadership of Jessica Reckelhoff, our DRE, we continued to gather each Sunday for our Family Religious Education program. This past year we held these classes in conjunction with students from Resurrection Parish. Each Sunday we provided an opportunity for the young children of our parish to gather for Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 10:30 am Sunday Masses.

We provided formation sessions for our high school young men and women as they prepared to be confirmed by Bishop Siegel last April. We also provided formation sessions for the young children who celebrated First Reconciliation in February and First Communion in April. Several members of the parish gathered for Bible Study Groups, That Man is You reflection group, as well as

## ST. JOSEPH PARISH CEMETERY

The annual meeting of the Cemetery Board was held on January 28, 2025. Cemetery Income from the sale of graves and other memorial gifts was \$14,950.00. Expenses for the maintenance of our lawn mowing equipment and care for the parish grounds was \$6,421.39. The cemetery reserve fund at the end of December, 2024 stood at \$66,081.75.

Our policy been that the cost of our cemetery plots for parishioners is one half of the cost of similar cemetery plots at St. Joseph Cemetery in the city of Evansville. Accordingly, the cost for a double plot for parishioners is \$1,500.00 and a single grave \$750.00. For former parishioners a double grave is \$3,000.00 and a single grave is \$1,500.00.

The new cemetery columbarium for cremation burials has been complete. Cost for a niche space in our cremation columbarium is \$1,500 for parishioners and \$3,000 for former parishioners.



### CEMETERY CREMATION COLUMBARIUM CONSTRUCTION EXPENSES

EICKHOFF COLUMBARIUM	\$76,680.00
CONCRETE WORK	\$17,865.68
SITE PREPARATION AND LANDSCAPE WORK	\$16,402.53



## CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (CPC)

Ever since the beginning of our parish, we have helped to support the work of our diocese by contributing money to help fund the work of our diocese. For the first 137 years of our parish that support came through an annual diocesan assessment. Since 1981 we have provided this financial support through our Catholic Ministries Appeal. Throughout this past year, parishioners were paying their pledges to the 2023 CMA appeal. Our assessment for this period was \$130,270 and we received pledges of \$126,006 (97% of the our total assessment) from 330 families (68% of our parish families).

As a parish we are responsible for paying the entire assessment so we depend upon parishioners fulfilling their pledges. Whatever pledges are not paid have to be paid using parish funds. Likewise if our pledges do not cover the entire assessment, our parish is responsible for making up this shortfall. For this past fiscal year, we had to pay \$10,578.00 to cover this shortfall.

For 2024, we received pledges of \$130,708 toward our diocesan assessment of \$130,270. If everyone fulfills their pledges this will cover our diocesan assessment and we will not have to take any of our general funds to supplement these pledges.



monthly Book Study Groups.

This past June we joined forces with our friends at Resurrection Parish to offer a weeklong Vacation Bible School giving our young children a chance to explore the Bible.

Last March, we held a women's retreat with over 70 people participating in this two day event. Several members of the parish made a Cursillo Weekend and other members of the parish served as members of the team putting on the Cursillo Weekend.

We continued to keep in touch with the 80+ members of our parish who are in college by providing a care package of assorted goodies for them to help them through semester exams. We continued to highlight the achievements of our high school seniors through our "Up Close and Personal" stories in our monthly newsletter. And we joined with other west side parishes to provide social gathering chances for our high school and middle school students for Ice Skating and trips to Holiday World.



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## EXTRADORIDANRY PARISH MAINTENACE ITEMS

PARKING LOT REPAIR, SEALING AND STRIPPING	\$20,799.90
WATER TREATMENT PLANT SITE WORK	\$2,467.50
SCHOOL CLASSROOM CABINETS	\$44,818.76
NEW GYM ROOF	\$72,000.00
STORAGE BUILDING STORM DAMAGE REPAIR	\$13,253.03

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## SUMMER SOCIAL RUMMAGE SALE FISH FRY

We started the year with our Summer Social Chicken Dinner and Grand Raffle. It was comfort food at its best that over 2600 people were able to enjoy. The spirit of cooperation was evident, beginning with our social chair couples Patrick & Britt Fehrenbacher and Chip & Megan Altstadt and continuing through to all the workers. We grossed over \$113,000 from our dinners and our grand raffle.

That parish wide effort was followed up with our two successful fish fry which were held in March. We served 1947 dinners and were able to realize a prfit of \$19,543.15 to support our many parish maintenance needs.

This past June we held our 23rd annual rummage sale. Each year, an incredible group of volunteers transform our gym, cafeteria and meeting room into our version of Walmart. Sales were brisk throughout this two day event and, in the end we raised over \$14,000. That's an awful lot of sales when you consider that most items were sold for \$1 or \$2.

## PARISH MAINTENANCE

We have a long history of being good stewards of the buildings and property of St. Joseph Parish. We are blessed with lots of folks who are skilled in various trades who have offered their expertise to keep our buildings in good shape. This past year was no exception.

In the course of the year there were all manner of plumbing issues, heating and air-conditioning issues, electrical issues, lights that needed to be changed, PA systems that

needed to be maintained, painting various areas of buildings, installing new doors, adjusting panic hardware on doors, annual and ongoing maintenance of our water treatment plant, all of which got taken care of, many of them in which the labor costs were donated by parishioners. Most of these go on without anyone even



## PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRIES

This past year, members of our parish continued a long tradition of reaching out to our brothers and sisters in need. There efforts, large and small, touched lives locally and throughout the world. They included things like our participation in a wide variety of special collections, weekly food collections for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry and providing money for food, utilities and other necessities for individual families located within our parish boundaries.

In conjunction with our Men's Club yearly sausage sale, parishioners provided the money to give 400 lbs of sausage to the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry and some of our local homeless shelters. We also conducted our annual Diaper Bag Express through which we provided items for newborn infants through Birthright.

Three times during this past year, we invited parishioners to give blood at our blood drives. Parishioners also had the opportunity to contribute money for our local Catholic Build for Habitat. Several members of our parish also helped out as members of the weekly building crews for Habitat homes. We continued our support the work of Mary, Mother of God Parish in Vladivostok, Russia through our quarterly special collections.

Because of the political unrest in Haiti, our work with our brothers and sisters in Haiti has been very challenging. We have not been able to have any mission groups travel to Haiti as we have in past years. Despite that we continued our

## MISSION OUTREACH DISTRIBUTIONS 2024-2025

Fund for the Needy and Other Special Collections	\$8,702.00
Vladivostok Missions	\$2,687.00
Haiti Monthly Support	\$9,464.00
Haiti School Education	\$97,405.00
Haiti Special Projects	\$40,812.00
Haiti Food Expenses	\$29,200.00
Haiti Sewing Hope	\$6,280.00
Haiti Fish Farm	\$1,650.00
Monthly Personnel Stipends	\$10,460.00
<b>TOTAL DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>\$206,660.00</b>

Money spent on our Haiti Ministry comes from contributions of parishioners as well as our friends of Haiti outside our parish.

knowing that they are being taken care of. But these efforts resulted in thousands of dollars saved had we been forced to have outside firms do this work.

Perhaps the one area where people notice the efforts of volunteers is the work done by our lawn mowing crews. They have done a heroic job of keeping the parish campus looking great. It's a lot of work to mow the lawn and trim around all the tombstones

(Continued on page 7)





**PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2024 — JUNE 30, 2025**

**ORDINARY INCOME**

<b>WEEKLY COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$741,847.73</b>
<b>OTHER ORDINARY INCOME</b> Rummage Sale, Bulletin/Newsletter Ads, Summer Social, Fish Fry, Interest Income, Lottery, Rental, & Miscellaneous	<b>\$276,739.85</b>
<b>SCHOOL INCOME</b> Parishioner Tuition, Book Fees, Technology Fees, Non Parish Tuition, Pre-School Fees, After School Care Fees, WSNC grants, Tuition Vouchers, SGO Grants, And other miscellaneous income	<b>\$1,024,420.75</b>
<b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,770.82</b>
<b>TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,044,465.15</b>
<b>ORDINARY EXPENSES</b>	
<b>PARISH STAFF SALARIES and BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$255,487.24</b>
<b>CHURCH and WORSHIP</b>	<b>\$10,772.33</b>
<b>PARISH OFFICE and RELATED EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$70,639.73</b>
<b>PARISH BUILDING and GROUND MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>\$61,754.42</b>
<b>CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL PAYMENT</b>	<b>\$10,578.00</b>
<b>MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>\$95,841.88</b>
<b>ST. JOE SCHOOL EXPENSES</b> Salaries and Benefits, Classroom/Curriculum, Pre-School, Day Care, Building Maintenance	<b>\$1,388,491.54</b>
<b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$56,312.89</b>
<b>TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,917,380.18</b>

The above report is a condensed version of our financial report. If you would like to review a detailed financial report, call the parish office and we will make a copy of the complete report available for you.

in our cemetery. We are grateful as well for the work that Jerry Happe has done in keeping all our mowers and weed eating equipment in good order.

For the past few years we have used the services of a cleaning company for cleaning the school. Beginning with the summer cleaning of the school and the new school year we will be doing that work ourselves. We have hired several people to be part of our school cleaning team. This past summer, with the help of an incredible group of volunteers, we undertook a major cleaning of the entire school.

We also tucked pointed a section of the exterior of the

**REBUILDING OUR CHURCH CAMPAIGN  
EXPENSES 2020-2025**

HELMING BROTHERS STEEPLE CROSS & BASE	\$28,903.34
INSTALLATION OF CHURCH ROOF LIGHTENING PROTECTION	\$13,580.07
ALUMINUM STORM WINDOWS	\$12,429.50
NEW CHURCH BELLS RINGING PROGRAM (PARTIAL PAYMENT)	\$5,385.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$307.91

**REBUILDING OUR CHURCH CAMPAIGN  
INCOME TO DATE**

TOTAL CAMPAIGN PLEDGES	\$805,572.00
CAMPAIGN PLEDGE PAYMENTS 2024-2025	\$193,793.42
RECEIVED TO DATE	\$792,820.23
MEN'S CLUB CONTRIBUTION FOR 2024	\$25,000.00

school and sealed the brick to deal with some moisture leaks. We also installed a new roof on the school gym. Part of it had been damaged by the wind storm from last March. A section of the roof on the southwest corner of our storage building was also damaged when a tree became uprooted and landed on the storage building during the wind storm last March.

Several items envisioned in our Rebuilding the Campaign were also completed this year. New cabinets were installed in the third and fourth grade rooms, the science lab and the after school enrichment room. This completes a multi year project of installing new cabinets in all the school classroom.

Several areas of the parking lot were sealed and restriped. This completes our two year project of refurbishing all the parking lots on the parish campus.

The cross and base of the steeple was refurbished and gold plated and reinstalled. The lightning protection that was torn off by the tornado in 2023 was repaired and reinstalled. Several new storm windows were fabricated and installed which should now protect the windows from being damaged by the weather.

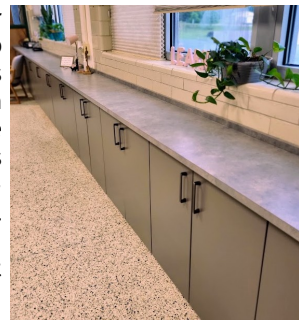
Our groundwork and site preparation for our new cremation columbarium was completed and the new columbarium was installed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

It takes a great deal of commitment from a lot of people who take seriously our obligation to provide the money needed to do the work we do in our parish. Over the years we have been blessed by their financial generosity. Because of that, we can report that we ended the parish in the black and the state of finances in our parish is very sound.

We were blessed again this year with so many people helping

*(Continued on page 8)*



## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions made to St. Joseph Parish in memory of these loved ones. Let us continue to remember the gift they have been in our lives

## TO ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

IN MEMORY OF

*Barbara Jean  
(Elpers) Wallace*

Lisa, Kenny, Jimmy, Tim,  
Lori & Chris Wallace

IN MEMORY OF

*Rose Weiss*

Gerald & Joyce Carrico

IN MEMORY OF

*Everett "Bub" Baylor*

Scott & Connie Anderson

MOTHER TERESA  
ENDOWMENT

IN MEMORY OF

*Marie Gumbel*

Tim & Karen Schenk

(Continued from page 7)

on parish fundraising projects—our summer social, rummage sale, fish fry, and catered dinners. We are blessed as well by the in-kind contributions from so many people. It's difficult to calculate the total dollar value of such services but it is in the thousands of dollars. Their help is also one of the reasons we have a positive financial report.



We were able to operate our parish in the black financially in large part because we have a very dedicated parish and school staff that has learned how to get the most from the money we receive. Our staff is pretty bare bones and most of these people wear several different hats when it comes to job descriptions. It is these efforts that have enabled our parish to break even each year.

A look at our financial report reveals that 66% of our money is spent on salaries and benefits for our teachers, and parish staff, less than 1% is spent on worship related expenses, about 4% is spent on various aspects of running the parish office, about 9% is spent on building maintenance, utilities and insurance, .1% is spent on Religious Education Programs, 6% is spent in support of Mater Dei High School and 12% is spent on expenses related to the operation of our school program, beyond the cost of salaries and benefits for teachers and staff.

Looking to the future, as a general rule, we have budgeted income items on the conservative side and expense items on the liberal side. Better to end up with money left over than find out we have more expenses that we anticipated.

We have budgeted an increase of 10% for utility costs, 3% for lay pension costs, 4% for medical insurance, and 5% for property and liability insurance.

Next year we have allotted \$74,000 for cleaning of the school, \$46,000 for utility costs, \$20,000 for maintenance and repair costs, \$5,500 for janitorial supplies and \$11,000 to maintain our waste water (septic system) treatment plant.

This year's budget also reflects a substantial increase in salaries for our teachers. We have generally tried to follow the salary scale set by our Catholic high school. The High School Board has continued to work diligently addressing competitive challenges with the compensation scales in the surrounding public school corporations and as such implemented a revised teacher compensation and annual increment scale which took effect last year with the 2024-2025 school year. This revised scale indicated a multi-year plan of slightly higher % increases

## LITURGICAL MINSITERS AUGUST 16, 2025—SETEMBER 14, 2025

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS
Saturday August 16, 5 PM	Diane Woods Eric Reffett Peter and Jodi Fehrenbacher	Sis Jarboe
Sunday August 17 8 AM	Jean Duncan Brian and Ann Craney Marcia Frey	Jalane Weber
Sunday August 17 10:30 AM	Debra Baumgart Diane Bassemier Danielle Weledge Doris Taylor	Shane Wessel
Saturday August 23, 5 PM	Mary Loehrlein Carolyn Hutchinson Lee and Toni Askins	Toni Askins
Sunday August 24 8 AM	Terry Drone Lisa Cook Rodney and Paula Baehl	Dave Schmitt
Sunday August 24, 10:30 AM	Sally Kempf Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig Paul Hillenbrand	Chad Martin
Saturday August 30, 5 PM	Donald & Brandon Werner Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Donna Niemeier	Susie Schapker
Sunday August 31, 8 AM	Darlene Appler Jalane Weber Kylie FreyStephanie Frey	Tom Folz
Sunday August 31, 10:30 AM	Amy Cody Jena Wessel Rachael Schanus Becky Doshier	Jane Scheller
Saturday Spetember 6 5 PM	Eric and Karen McDonald Butch and Linda Feulner	Toni Askins
Sunday September 7, 8 AM	Tom and Dolores Folz Imogene Baehl Michael Elpers	Tom Blythe
Sunday September 7 10:30 AM	Jena Wessel Steve Jung Al Debes Angie Will	Shane Wessel
Saturday September 13 5 PM	Diane Woods Eric Reffett Peter and Jodi Fehrenbacher	Sis Jarboe
Sunday September 14 8 AM	Randy and Kathy Fehrenbacher Chick & Jean Duncan	Josh Baehl
Sunday September 14 10:30 AM	Debra Baumgart Diane Bassemier Danielle Weledge Doris Taylor	Chad Martin

for teachers that would continue through the 2025-2026 school year. Over the past three years we have increased teacher's salaries by \$140,387 which is a 28% increase. As tuition voucher money has become available, we have used the biggest part of it to cover increases in teacher's salaries.

And so we have come to the end of another year in the life of our parish. There is much to be thankful for. We recall the word of St. Paul, who tells us to "give thanks to god whose power now at work in our lives can do far more than we can ask our imagine." We are a good parish. But we are not a perfect parish. We try our best to imitate Jesus in all that we say and do. At the same time we get sideways with one another. Sometimes we fail miserably in being the heart and mind of Jesus. But, as St. Mother Teresa, often reminded her follower: God did not call us to be successful. But he did call us to be faithful each day. And that's what we try to do. We are im-

(Continued on page 12)



## MISSION OUTREACH



Be an island of mercy in  
a sea of indifference.

*Pope Francis*

Not all of us can do great things,  
but we can do small things with great  
love. *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*



**NEXT PARISH  
BLOOD DRIVE  
SUNDAY, AUG. 24  
8 am--Noon  
in the school gym**



## WE'RE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SPONSOR A CHILD'S EDUCATION IN HAITI



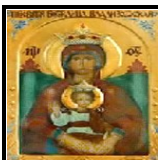
Each year our Haiti Outreach Committee seeks new sponsors to join our group of generous people who are sponsoring a child's education in Haiti. As often happens, some of our previous sponsors have died, while others have found they cannot continue to give at the level they did in the past. So we are always looking for new people to match up with the children in St. James Parish in Haiti. Each year Fr. Dubois

gives us a list of the children who are in most financial need and we try to match a sponsor with them, to give them the help they need to attend school.

We will be happy to share with you a short bio and picture of students who need sponsors. We invite you to let your heart be changed by reaching out to sponsor your special student.

A person or family can sponsor a student for an annual cost of \$360, or just \$30 per month. This fee helps pay for their tuition, provide a stipend for uniforms and books, helps fund the daily food program and allows the students to have access to the parish clinic. With your help and the help of many of our other friends in the community, we currently sponsor approximately 200 students at St. Jacques elementary and high school. Their sponsorships help their sponsored child receive an education and provide their student a daily lunch at school (for some it may be the only meal for the day).

If you would like more information, you can contact Chad Martin, (812-454-2785) or email him at seabeesgreat58@gmail.com.



**SPECIAL COLLECTION JUNE 28-29  
TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF  
SEMINARIANS FOR MARY MOTHER OF  
GOD PARISH IN VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA**



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER. 27 9 AM  
EVANSVILLE STATE HOSPITAL GROUNDS**

- Register for the walk online, [www.svdpevansville.org/register-form/](http://www.svdpevansville.org/register-form/)
- You can also register the morning of the walk.
- Collect donations of personal care items for all ethnic groups, as well as laundry goods. These items will help us to create donation packages for those in need in our community that are distributed at our Food Pantry
- Bring your registration form along with donations collected from family, friends, and fellow parishioners to the registration table at the Walk. Make sure to note your Parish on your registration form so that the money you raised can be donated back to your conference.
- Snap a selfie while walking to SHARE with us on [Facebook!](#)

*Last year, the Evansville District of the St. Vincent DePaul Society partnered with YMCA, Ozanam Family Shelter and other agencies to provide clothing at minimal cost to people in need.*

*They provided \$650,000 to over 12,000 individuals to cover rent, utilities and other essentials.*

*Distributed over 427,000 pounds of food to families in need.*

*Had over 36,500 hours of service volunteered at the Food Pantry, Thrift Store and through the different conferences in each parish with nearly 50,000 miles driven to visit those in need*



**SISTERS  
OF ST. BENEDICT  
FERDINAND, INDIANA**  
*Seek, Pray, Share.*

## SPECIAL MISSION

**APPEAL AUGUST 9-10**

Each year, through the Mission Office in our Diocese, each parish invites a member of a foreign mission to come and speak to the parish and to invite us to provide financial support for their work. This year, the Sisters of St. Benedict from Ferdinand will be here on the weekend of August 9 and 10 to speak on behalf of the mission work in Peru.

The sisters have spent nearly 60 years living, working, and ministering in the Diocese of Chulucanas in northern Peru - yes, in the same diocese where Pope Leo XIV began his missionary work! Today six sisters serve in this area working as teachers and pastoral ministers in the rural and mountainous regions of the country. Sr. Kathleen Marie Cash will visit to share about the ministry of the sisters and will offer an opportunity to continue the work that has been done for so many years. Thank you for your support!



**We continue to accept donations for  
the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry**



# AUGUST 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div><div></div><div><h1>Back to School Bash</h1></div><div></div><div><p><b>DROP OFF YOUR SCHOOL SUPPLIES</b></p><p><b>MEET THE TEACHERS</b></p><p><b>ENJOY A COOKOUT</b></p></div></div> <div><p><b>SUNDAY, AUGUST 3 AFTER MASS 11:30 am - 1 pm</b></p><p><b>ALL FAMILIES WELCOME</b></p></div>					<p><b>1</b> 5 am Boot Camp 7:30 am MASS</p> <p>Communion to the Homebound</p>	<p><b>2</b> Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 -4:40pm 5 pm Mass HAITI &amp; Food Pantry COLLECTION</p>
<p><b>3</b> 8 &amp; 10:30 Masses Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30</p> <p>Back to School Bash 11:30—1</p> <p>HAITI AND FOOD PANTRY COLLETION</p>	<p><b>4</b> 5 am Boot Camp 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p>6:30 pm Mass</p>	<p><b>5</b> 7:30 am Mass</p> <p><b>PRAYER DAY FOR VOCATIONS</b> <b>TUESDAY 6 AM -- WEDENSDAY 6 AM</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> 7:30 am Mass</p> <p>Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon</p> <p>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL</p>	<p><b>7</b> No Mass</p> <p>Pre- School Begins</p>	<p><b>8</b> 5 am Boot Camp 7:30 Mass</p> <p>Communion to the Homebound</p> <p>Pre-K Begins</p>	<p><b>9</b> Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 -4:40pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection SPECIAL MISSION APPEAL THIS WEEKEND</p>
<p><b>10</b> 8 &amp; 10:30 Masses Food Pantry Collection Confirmation Parent Meeting 9:00 Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 1st Communion Parent Meeting 11:30</p>	<p><b>11</b> 5:00 am Boot Camp 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass 7 pm Knights of St. John</p>	<p><b>12</b> Mass 7:30 am</p>	<p><b>13</b> 5:00 am Soul Core Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon Mass at 6:30 pm Feast of the Assumption</p>	<p><b>14</b> 7:30 AM MASS FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION Haiti Ministry Meeting 6:30 pm</p> 	<p><b>15</b> 5:00 am Boot Camp NO MASS Communion to the Homebound</p>	<p><b>16</b> Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 pm</p> <p>5 pm Mass</p> <p>Food Pantry Collection</p>
<p><b>17</b> 8 &amp; 10:30 Masses Family Class 9:00 Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30</p>	<p><b>18</b> 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 5:00 am Boot Camp 6:30 pm Mass</p> <p>7 PM Men's Club</p>	<p><b>19</b> Mass 7:30 am</p>	<p><b>20</b> 5:00 am Soul Core Mass 7:30 am</p> <p>Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon</p>	<p><b>21</b> NO MASS</p>	<p><b>22</b> 5:00 am Boot Camp 7:30 am Mass Communion to the Homebound</p>	<p><b>23</b> Faith Formation Workshop at the Catholic center Sacrament of Reconciliation 4pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry</p>
<p><b>24</b> 8 &amp; 10:30 Masses Family Class 9:00 Food Pantry Collection Confirmation Session #1 11:30-1 pm BLOOD DRIVE 8-NOON</p>	<p><b>25</b> 5:00 am Boot Camp</p> <p>7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration</p>	<p><b>26</b> Mass 7:30 am</p>	<p><b>27</b> 5:00 am Soul Core</p> <p>Mass 7:30 am</p>	<p><b>28</b> NO MASS</p>	<p><b>29</b> 5:00 am Boot Camp</p> <p>7:30 am Mass</p> <p>Communion to the Homebound</p>	<p><b>30</b> Sacrament of Reconciliation 4pm</p> <p>5 pm Mass</p> <p>Food Pantry Collection</p>
<p><b>31</b> 8 &amp; 10:30 Masses Family Class 9:00 am Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 am</p>	<div><div></div><div><p>The reason why life works at all is because not everyone in your tribe is nuts on the same day!</p><p>Anne Lamont</p></div></div> <div><p>RENEW YOUR HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP</p><p>BECOME A HAITI STUDENT SPONSOR</p></div>					



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6202 WEST ST. JOSEPH ROAD  
EVANSVILLE, IN 47720

OFFICE: 812-963-273 PRAYER CHAIN: 812 -963-3149

SCHOOL: 812-963-3335 Fax: 812-963-3337

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday—5 PM**

**Sunday—8 & 10:30 AM**

Fr. Gene Schroeder—Pastor

E-mail [gschroeder@evdio.org](mailto:gschroeder@evdio.org)

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### YEAR END REVIEW (cont.)

perfect people who have fallen in love with a perfect God and doing our best to become more like the One we worship.

Our year end report tells us a lot about the things we "did." To a large extent, we are a "doing" parish. Like most parishes, we find it easier to do the "hands on" tasks that make up the life of our parish. All that is important, of course, but even more important is who we "are." Buildings and programs help us, but ultimately what matters is whether we are becoming people who allow our hearts and minds to be shaped by the teachings of Jesus. This job does not have a



lot to do with success, but it has a lot to do with faithfulness.

What matters is how much we are willing to be a part of that journey. We continue to believe that being a parishioner means coming

to pray with our community at Mass, sharing our gifts by being part of the events of our parish, and taking seriously our responsibility to provide the money needed for the upkeep of our buildings and the various ministries that are part of our parish. When we do this, then all the things that we do, all the programs and events that we are part of, will all take their proper place. And when we do so, we will continue to be a joyful, active, faith-filled people who give thanks to God by generously sharing their individual gifts and talents to serve the needs of all.

If we need some words to encourage us in this journey, perhaps these words attributed to Pope Leo will suffice. He

spoke these words to the people of Diocese of Trujillo where he worked as an Augustinian Missionary in Peru.

"Brothers, sisters... I speak to you, especially to those who no longer believe, no longer hope, no longer pray, because they think God has left. To those who are fed up with scandals, with misused power, with the silence of a Church that sometimes seems more like a palace than a home. I, too, was angry with God. I, too, saw good people die, children suffer, grandparents cry without medicine. And yes... there were days when I prayed and only felt an echo.

But then I discovered something: God doesn't shout. God whispers. And sometimes He whispers from the mud, from pain, from a grandmother who feeds you without having anything. I don't come to offer you perfect faith. I come to tell you that faith is a walk with stones, puddles, and unexpected hugs. I'm not asking you to believe in everything. I'm asking you not to close the door. Give a chance to the God who waits for you without judgment. I'm just a priest who saw God in the smile of a woman who lost her son... and yet she cooked for others. That changed me.

So if you're broken, if you don't believe, if you're tired of the lies... come anyway. With your anger, your doubt, your dirty backpack. No one here will ask you for a VIP card. Because this Church, as long as I breathe, will be a home for the homeless, and a rest for the weary. God doesn't need soldiers. He needs brothers and sisters. And you, yes, you... are one of them."

